

V Corps, General von Steinmetz had encountered the enemy. Involuntarily everyone quickened their steps, the regiment shouted a loud hurrah to the passing corps commander to show him that they wanted to be there at the first struggle in Bohemia. They boiled it in a hurry and then continued the march in the direction of Nachod. During the march the news came that the Austrians had been thrown and the pass taken.

The 1st Army Corps had not been so fortunate; energetically attacked by Field Marshal Lieutenant von Gablenz, the same had to retreat to the Liebenau Pass. During the night hours, His Royal Highness the Crown Prince issued the following order:

“Since the battle of the 1st Army Corps near Trautenau got off to an indecisive start, I order that the Guards Corps continue its advance in the ordered direction to Kaile. and from there, if the battle of Trautenau is still going on, march to this place and take part in the battle immediately.

It must be broken up as early as possible.

(signed) Friedrich Wilhelm, Crown Prince.

The task of the Guard Corps was to facilitate debouching for the I Army Corps. The 2nd Guards Infantry Division, which was alerted before daybreak, headed towards Trautenau and at 7:40 passed the town of Eypel.

While parts of the 1st Guards Infantry Division had already started the attack, the 2nd Guards Infantry Division, the Kaiser Franz Regiment in the vanguard, formed up for combat around noon south of the village of Staudenz. Since the 2nd Battalion Kaiser Franz, which suffered great losses, was not able to drive the enemy out of the strong position of the Rudersdorf Heights, the Fusilier Battalion Regiment Queen was ordered there to support, while the 1st Battalion under Major von der Osten directed to the moat houses. Rudersdorf and Alt-Rognitz were taken, and in addition to several hundred Austrians, the enemy brigade commander, Colonel von Grivicic, was also taken prisoner. The Austrians were also pushed out of Trautenau, Weigelsdorf and Kaltenhof; numerous prisoners fell into the hands of the Fusilier Battalion.

Lieutenant Colonel von Burghoff, commander of the Fusilier Battalion, Queen's Regiment, was appointed commander of the town of Trautenau, and his battalion was assigned to him as a garrison. There was a lot to organize and do here, to guard thousands of prisoners, to appoint authorities, to keep the unruly population

in check [?], to house numerous wounded and to make food available. But the restless activity of the Fusilierbattalion was particularly claimed when, in the night from June 29th to 30th, a spinning mill building in which 1500 Austrian prisoners were housed was set on fire. Almost all were saved and only a few individuals emerged from the inevitable confusion.

The prisoners were taken to Prussia over the next few days under escort from the 9th, 10th and 11th companies. Dense fog and cold rain showers followed the hot June days.

Such a cold, wet morning was that of July 3rd, when early the drums rattled the alarm to call the battalions of the 2nd Guards Infantry Division bivouacking around Kettendorf to the planned decisive battle. The through Abkommandirungen resp. by the companies on the transport of prisoners consisting only of the 2nd and 4th companies, the 2nd battalion under Major Dejanics von Glisczynski and the 12th company under Premier-Lieutenant von Seydlitz, the Queen's regiment marched from Comar via Queen's court in the direction Chlum. Soon the thunder of cannons, weakened by fog and rain, gave evidence of the fierceness of the battle that had already broken out. It went across fields and through wet grain fields.

The almost unfathomable paths, which were rutted by artillery wheels and by the troops that had passed, as well as frequent crossings with other regiments, only permitted slow progress despite the will to fight. The regiment made the same progress in the first encounter. The regiment was in the first meeting of the division's reserve brigade. At Horenowes, a corps gendarme brought a note from the commanding General, Prince August von Württemberg:

"3 o'clock in the afternoon. All goes well. Enemy retreating[.] All shall march forward."

// Between Chlum and the burning Rosberitz they marched swiftly, leaving Wisestar and Rosnitz on the left. The regiment came under heavy shell fire on a forest height north-west of the villages of Kläcow [?] and

Charbusitz

. Luckily only a few bullets exploded in the heavily sodden ground. A fierce cavalry battle, which developed between Langenhof and Srtesetitz, interrupted the advance for a short time. Then the regiment saw the traces of the heavy fighting that had taken place: trees, hedges and fences smashed to pieces, the ground ruffled and trampled underfoot by the shells that had been struck and the horses' hooves of the horsemen, large gaps between the high ears of the cornfields, covered with the dead and wounded, with dead and dying horses. The blue trousers of the Austrians, shining out of the yellow corn, reminded one of the cornflowers in the field.

Hundreds of prisoners passed by. Rows of yellow Austrian guns were already standing deserted on the heights.

A great battle had been fought, and the regiment regretted not having had a full part in it. The losses of the same amounted to 1 officer and 7 men wounded. Farther on they went, while His Majesty the King led his horsemen like a gale after the fleeing enemy. At Stezirek, probably the southernmost point of the extensive battlefield, the regiment met parts of the VIII Army Corps, exchanging happy greetings with the Rhenish compatriots. The hope of bivouacking in the forest there came to nothing. At 8 1/2 o'clock the march back through the burning village of Probus to the bivouac site of the Guard Corps near Langenhof began. A horrid march in pitch darkness across the battlefield strewn with dead and wounded, where nine burning villages blazed their sheaves of flame in the clear night sky. After a two-hour march, the regiment reached the assembly point. The wagons had not been able to follow, the knapsacks had been left behind, the last bite out of the bread bag had long been eaten, one sank knee-deep into the sodden ground. Nevertheless, the people, wrapped in their cloaks, threw themselves on the ground to rest from the toil of the day. Though the regiment's losses were insignificant, the hardships endured had been downright grueling.

"I expected much of my army, especially much of my guard; but you have exceeded My highest

expectations

. I give you My Royal thanks for this; I will never forget that. If the Lord wants us to continue on our way, persevere in this spirit and victory will never fail!" With these words His Majesty the King addressed the deputations of the Guard regiments, which were on the Chlumer hill, the following day had come to the funeral of Lieutenant General Freiherr Hiller von Gaertringen, who had fallen at the head of his 1st Guards Infantry Division.

//July 4th was spent visiting the wounded, burying the dead and repairing things. The march continued in the direction of Pardubice. On the 6th, the Elbe was crossed on a pontoon bridge built by the pioneers above the Koenigsgratz Fortress, which lay there in gray outlines. On July 9, the 1st and Fusilier Battalions joined the division's vanguard.

// Difficulties in subsistence, which could only be alleviated by unstoppable progress in areas that were not yet completely foraged, necessitated quite strenuous marches. Behind the army stood the specter of cholera, which was already beginning to wreak havoc in the hospitals. The aim was to reach the capital Vienna as quickly as possible in order to enforce peace there.

//During this advance, diplomatic negotiations began. A ceasefire was agreed on July 23. The 2nd Guards Infantry Division advanced to Prague. At the Spittelmarkt, Their Royal Highnesses Prince Friedrich Karl and Prince Albrecht and the Governor of Bohemia, General Vogel von Falkenstein, received the parade. Here in the Bohemian capital, in beautiful old Prague, the regiment now made up for the hardships of the past few weeks.

On August 25, the officers of the Queen's regiment shared a meal with those of the Kaiser Franz regiment in the Baumgarten. On the 23rd peace was concluded. Austria gave her consent to the dissolution of the German Confederation and the reorganization of Germany without her participation and also ceded her rights to Schleswig-Holstein to Prussia. On the 27th the regiment received the order to march back to Berlin. A feeling of pity crept over officers and men as they returned to their footsteps and saw the previously

hurried

regions in a state of utter helplessness. And the poor people were still not spared the last trials, because even the very last had to be given up to feed the foreign troops. The harvest was mostly insignificant; Many had not cut their corn at all because they wanted to leave the Prussians the trouble of fetching it from the field instead of from their barn. The convoy paths made through fields and meadows had destroyed a large part of the fruit; individual areas showed at every step the grain fields devastated by the campfire and the straw huts of the bivouacs; even the immense forests had suffered. Bread was scarce, the old grain had long been consumed, the little new was threshed, ground, baked, and eaten. - All in one day.

The regiment passed the black and white barriers again with a happy heart. Then, on September 20th, the ribbons for the commemorative cross donated by His Majesty to the King were distributed to him. On the 21st the regiment took part in the entry into Berlin and on the 25th it returned to Coblenz, where it was given a ceremonial reception. The Fusilier Battalion, which had previously been garrisoned in Düsseldorf, now remained in Coblenz; the 2nd Battalion moved into the Karthause, while the 1st Battalion occupied the barracks in the Rhine connection. The years of peace that now came were eagerly used by the regiment to achieve the highest possible level of war fitness, because "If you want peace, prepare for war". The Austrian campaign had been quite instructive in this respect. In terms of

clothing, too, he made some changes. The tunics were given a different, more comfortable cut, the narrow sleeves were replaced by more, the padded chest in the tunics was done away with, the red mirrors were introduced, and the collars, which had hitherto been lined with horsehair, were given a more supple shape. Lined trousers were replaced by unlined trousers, which were accompanied by underpants.

On July 24, 1867, the Queen's regiment was in

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parade formation with the rest of the Coblenz garrison and the current hussar regiment of King Wilhelm I from Bonn when His Majesty the King received the Turkish Grand Sultan Abdul Aziz Kahn. On the way from the castle to the Rhenish railway station, His Majesty rode in front of the battalions forming a trellis in the uniform of his Royal Hussars. Returning in the carriage with the high guest who had arrived, He drew his attention to his regiment of guards. The Grand Sultan was delighted by the beautiful lines of the grenadiers and fusiliers and said admiringly: "une troupe brillante!"

//1868 on March 22, Colonel and wing adjutant von Stiehle relieved Colonel and wing adjutant von Strubberg in the command of the regiments off. It was with great regret that the regiment saw the departure of the beloved former leader, whom His Majesty's grace had called to a higher position.

The Franco-Prussian War.

1870-71.

The deeds of arms in 1866 could not forgive the glory-seeking French nation and at its head Napoleon the Prussian army.

When Prussia resolutely opposed Napoleon's planned acquisition of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, which was linked to the Netherlands by a personal union, France, in the ardent desire to refresh the French [[gloire]], which had been overshadowed by Prussia's victories, began to arm vigorously, in order to nullify the progressive development of German unity and power under Prussian leadership through a military success. The candidacy of Hereditary Prince Leopold von Hohenzollern for the defunct Spanish royal throne in July 1870 gave France a welcome reason to threaten war, which even after the renunciation of the Princes on the Spanish crown did not remain silent. Both the government and the

subversive parties used every means to incite the excitable French people to enthusiasm for the war. "To Berlin!" the cry rose in the capital as in the villages of the departments. War was inevitable.

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On July 16, the regiment, which had been headed by Colonel Graf von Waldersee since January 13, received the mobilization order. The day before, His Majesty the King had left Ems, where he was staying for a cure and where not long ago, after a combat exercise in the Neuhäusel Forest, the regiment had the honor of marching past the very highest in a brisk parade, which was especially admired by the foreign spa guests to parade. Before leaving for the capital, however, His Majesty had once again visited Coblenz, where the high wife was staying. When his majesty the king had said goodbye to his wife at the small gate leading from the castle garden to the Rhine facilities, a thousand voices cheered him from the assembled crowd, moved by the most patriotic feelings; but from the ramparts of the nearby Rhine connection works, where hundreds of grenadiers of the 2nd Battalion had lined up, the battle song had roared, which was also to become the victory song of the Germans:

"A call

roars like thunder, like the clatter of swords and a surge of waves,

To the Rhine, to the free German Rhine,

we all want to be guardians!"

//On July 19, France declared war. On the same day, it was the 60th anniversary of the death of the unforgettable Queen Louise, His Majesty renewed the donation of the Iron Cross.

// In the meantime, in Prussia, in all of Germany, an event that had hardly been expected with such unanimity was taking place: from the Alps to the Belt, from the rock to the sea, everything rose in arms. In the Rhenish regiments, the number of enlisted men was often larger than that of the conscripts, this was the case to a greater extent in the "Königin" regiment. The sons of the Rhineland and especially those of the city of Coblenz, in their loyal love and devotion to the royal family, have always found pride in serving in the regiment that was so close to the benefactor of the city of Coblenz, the noble Queen Augusta. The conscripts and volunteers, even

from far away, flocked in droves under the banners of the regiment to consecrate property and blood to the

fatherland

. That's how the 54-year-old volunteer Hartwig came over from Madrid in distant Spain, who, having joined as a fusilier, went through all the ranks up to the rank of lieutenant. The miners from the Saarbrücken mining area had rushed over in their overalls, just like those that had been brought out of the mines. The king called, and everyone, everyone came! How large was the number of Koblenz soldiers serving in the ranks of the regiment during the campaign, of which the following Koblenz names, most of which have been represented in the regiment from the beginning, bear witness:

//Blömers, Eisenach, Erben, J. Gassen +, C. Gassen, Gottschalk, Giese, Helf, Henrich +, Kluge +, Lill, Lehmkuhler, Lunemann, Lüttschwager, Ludwig, Maritzky +, Meurer, Mohr +, Nieden, Stuhlmann +, Stein +, Schneider, Tillenburg, Urban, Völker + , Wegler +.

//Life in the streets, in the squares and in the works of the city and fortress of Koblenz was not just that of mobilization; it was that of a people attacked insolently, willing to defend their interests with the last drop of blood. Everyone, inspired by the holy cause, outdid himself in willingness to make sacrifices and love of fatherland.

//The period from the 19th to the 23rd passed for the regiment with carrying out its mobilization and strenuous work in the reinforcement of the fortifications of Koblenz. On July 24, the regiment received the order

"Tuesday, 26th morning at 4 a.m., the regiment is ready to march on the Karthauser plateau".

//The following day the following message was sent from His Majesty the King to the German people:

"From all tribes of the German fatherland, from all circles of the German people, even from across the sea, I am on the occasion of the forthcoming fight for the honor and independence of Germany I have received so many demonstrations of devotion and willingness to make sacrifices for the common fatherland from communities and corporations, from associations and private individuals that I have an unavoidable need to publicly attest to this harmony of the German spirit and to add to the expression of my royal gratitude the assurance that I

show loyalty to loyalty to the German people and keep them unchangeable. The love for the common fatherland, the unanimous rebellion of the German tribes and their princes, has contained and reconciled all differences and opposites, and united, as hardly ever before, Germany can find the guarantee in its unanimity and in its right that the War will bring him lasting peace, and that from the bloody seed a harvest of German freedom and unity blessed by God will sprout. -

//On July 26th at 3 o'clock in the morning, after many a touching farewell scene had taken place beforehand, the 2nd Battalion [sic] lying in the connection to the Rhine took up the colors in the Royal Residence Castle. The melodies of the "Wacht am Rhein" sounded into the dawning day, all the windows of the Schloßstraße and the adjoining Löhrrstraße were occupied, to call the Augusta-regiment a last farewell. The regiment formed up in the Karthause, with the exception of one Catholic at the instigation of the high boss two merciful brothers were added to the field pastor to march off. The officer corps, the doctors, officials and sergeants of the regiment showed the following composition:

Regimental commander: Colonel Graf von Waldersee +.

Battalions-Commander: Major von Rosenberg (1st Bat.), Major von Behr (2nd Bat.), Major Prinz zu Salm-Salm + (Fusil. Battalion).

Captains: Beneckendorf von Hindenburg, Freiherr von Coels van der Brügghen, von Haugwitz +, Vogel von Falkenstein, Count von Keller +, von Widekind, von Gerhard, Freiherr von Hodenberg, von Saldern-Ahlimb, von Oidtman, O'Danne, von Seidlitz .

Premier-Lieutenants: von Luttitz +, Freiherr von Eynatten, von Weltzien +, von Pommer-Esche +, von Scholten, von Nostitz +, von Stückradt, von Barton called von Stedmann I, von Barton called von Stedmann II, Braumüller, von Fobel, von Goetz, Simon.

Second-Lieutenants: von Kropf +, von Motz, von Usedom +, Count von Reina, von Crotogino, von Graevenitz, Baron von Eynatten, Count zu Ysenburg-Büdingen-Philipp-Eich +, von Arnim, Baron von Maercken zu Geerath, von Müller,

Cleve, Freiherr von Stolzenberg, von Rudolphi, von Barton gen. von Stedmann, von Amon +, Freiherr von Puttkamer, Freiherr von Thielmann, Ries von Scheuernschloß +, von Hilgers +, Prince Florentin zu Salm-Salm +, von Gerstein-Hohenstein, by Suter +, Dollmeier.



Reserve lieutenants: Muhl, Napromsky +, Helf +, Mallmann, von Schmidt, Le Viseur, Eberts, Emmonds. //Vice-Sergeant: Gassen, Henrich +, Wegeler +. //Portepeefa Ehnrichs: by Massow, by Pelcke. //Avantageurs: Cleve, von Hardenberg, Sixt von Arnim, Marshal von Bieberstein +, Scheffer, von Beckendorf +.

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Regimental Physician: Staff Physician Dr. birdsong. //Staff doctors: Dr. Zober, Dr. Rudolfi. //Assistant-Doctors: Dr. Harder, Dr. weir. //Purser: Pless, Dehn. Field purser: Ginsky. //Regiment Chaplain: Heinen.

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Staff Skin Boist: Keiper. //Company Sergeant: Schmutzler. Gebauer +, Stude, Stahlberg, Görden, Gassen, Hempel, Krückmann, Apel +, Wolf +, Greilich, Peters.

//After a hot morning [sic] on the almost always uphill road to the Hundsrücken, quarters were moved into around 3 o'clock in the afternoon. The regimental staff, the 1st and 2nd companies, moved into quarters down in the Rheinthal in the town of Boppard, the other companies in the higher towns of Buchholz, Halsenbach, Ehr, Liesenfeld, Ney and Udenhausen. Halsenbach was already crowded with Coblenz artillery and engineers. On the 27th we set out at 4:30 in the morning. At 9 o'clock a terrible rain began, so that officers and men were soaked to the skin when they came to their quarters in Simmern, Riesweiler, Ohlweiler and other surrounding villages around noon. On July 28th the march led to the Nahethal. The initially good weather gave way to heavy rain during the march. The companies were distributed to Kreuzuach and to the villages of Roxheim, Hargesheim, Mandel and Rüdesheim on the mountains to the left of the Nahe. The next day was a rest day. On the 30th we continued via Kreuzuach. In the course of the morning,

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red and white Hessian border posts were passed and after a 6-hour march, quarters were occupied. The towns here were quite blessed with wine. The march on the 31st led through Alzey and Pfeddersheim. In Alzey was the headquarters of His Royal Highness Prince Friedrich Karl. The city flaunted the Hessian and black-red-golden flag decorations, the Prussian colors could also be seen occasionally. Officers and soldiers of all arms and uniforms could be seen in the streets, along whose rows of houses intendant's offices, field post offices, and telegraph carriages had parked.

After a long march, the battalions arrived in the vicinity of Worms at 1.30 am. Here at Worms the regiment joined up with the Guards Corps, which had arrived by train from Berlin and was concentrated between Mannheim and Worms.

//The Guards Corps under the command of His Royal Highness Prince Augustus of Württemberg was the II Army (Guards, II, III and IV Army Corps) under the supreme command of His Royal Highness Prince Frederick Charles of Prussia allocated. Commander of the 2nd Guards Infantry Division, to which the regiment belongs, was General-Lieutenant von Budritzki, who had been commander of the regiment in 1864-65, commander of the 4th Guards Infantry-Brigade was General-Major von Berger .

//With the 4th Garde Grenadier Regiment König, the Kaiser Franz Garde Grenadier Regiment No. 2 was in a brigade. The division also included: the Kaiser Alexander Garde-Gren. Regiment No. 1 and the 3rd Garde-Grenadier-Regiment Queen Elizabeth (3rd Garde Inf. Brigade), as well as the Garde Schützen battalion, the 2. Guard Uhlans Regiment, the 3rd Foot Detachment Guards Field Artillery Regiments, the 2nd and 3rd Field Engineer Companies and the 2nd Medical Detachment.

//On August 2nd, the Division held by its commander-General-Lieutenant von Budritzki near his headquarters Dirmstein. After a short greeting of the regiments, also among each other, and a march past in section columns, they were moved back to their quarters. The afternoon saw many of the regiment in old Worms. Here on the banks of the Rhine, whose guardians they set out to be,

foaming

waves over a sparkling glass.

//In Mainz, on the same day, His Majesty the King had issued the following order of the day:

To the army!

"The whole of Germany stands unanimously in arms against a neighboring state that has surprisingly and without reason declared war on us. It is the defense of the threatened fatherland, our honor, our own flock. Today I take command of the entire armies and go confidently into a fight that our fathers once fought gloriously. With me the whole Fatherland looks to you with confidence.

Lord God will be with our righteous cause.

Headquarters Mainz, August 2, 1870.

Signed: Wilhelm.

The following order of the day was issued by His Royal Highness Prince Friedrich Karl:

Soldiers!

//Today, by order of the king, you march forward against the enemy. The sons of Prussia have always distinguished themselves, you will win your laurels this time too, so that the fatherland can look upon you with pride.

//Show by your civilized behavior to friend and foe that you are worthy children of Prussia.

Signed: Friedrich Karl, Prince of Prussia.

//The advance began early in the morning of August 4th. At around 10:30 the regiment moved into cantonal quarters in Bavarian territory. Around noon the alarm sounded. The command to leave Kaiserslautern had been received from the General Command. The brigade assembled near Mühlheim. The march, which was quite arduous due to the continuous heavy rain, led via Grünstadt to Ramsen, where at 9 o'clock in the evening, at the same time as the Emperor Franz regiment, the bivouac was moved into, the first in the current campaign. The rain had eased off a bit. Soon the fires on which coffee was being made were roaring. Cheerful marches by the regimental band put the men in the right mood, they sang by the flickering fire, chatted over a pipe of

tobacco

or wandered off in their thoughts to their homeland. Then came the tattoo and into the still night the beautiful harmonies of the evening prayer. Covering themselves with their cloaks, they laid down their knapsacks to cover their heads, and the grenadiers went to sleep. Nothing could be heard but the regular footsteps of the camp guards, gradually [?] the fires went out and the weary eyes closed.

//We left at 6 a.m. The regiment marched, accompanied by occasional rain showers, which did nothing to spoil the enjoyment of nature offered by the beautiful Hardt Mountains, via Alsenborn and Eschenbach to Kaiserslautern. The news of yesterday's victory near Weissenburg, which arrived during the march, increased the good spirits in the regiment. In Kaiserslautern, adorned with flags, the victory dispatches were already posted. Behind the town, at the mill under the green tree, the regiment held a two-hour rendez-vous and let the Guard cavalry pass there. Then the march continued until evening. At 8 o'clock we moved into a bivouac near Kindsbach, in which the ground, which had been completely softened by the rain, and the sparse straw provided a rather unpleasant place to rest.

//Around 10 o'clock in the morning on the 6th the regiment left the bivouac and marched on the main road along the railway to Homburg. The weather had cleared. Already at 2 o'clock the new bivouac was occupied in a spruce forest, a real blessing in comparison with the previous ones. During the march and while still in the bivouac, the continuous thunder of cannons was heard.

//The next morning we left at 6:30 am. The march took place in division formations, the 2nd Guards-Ulanen-Regiment and the Kaiser Alexander Regiment with the 5th and 6th light battery had the vanguard. A train carrying wounded men passed on the way. General von Berger informed the regiment of a victory of the Crown Prince's army, and further informed that the enemy had also been defeated at Saarbriicken. These communications provoked great rejoicing in the regiment. The day was very hot, and the march in the mountainous terrain extremely difficult. Due to the closely spaced columns, there were often unpleasant standstills.

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//The practicable measures of opening the collars, removing the cravats and the provision of drinking water in the villages, caused by officers on horseback who had been sent ahead, made the hardships much easier to bear. The regiment passed Schwanenbach, Homburg and Einöd and moved into bivouac at 8:30 p.m. between Blieskastel and Zweibrücken near the village of Webenheim.

//The regiment was given the following order of the day:

Soldiers of the Second Army!

//"You are stepping onto French soil. The Emperor Napoleon declared war on Germany without any reason, he and his armies are our enemies. The French people have not been asked whether they want to wage a bloody war with their German neighbors, there is no reason for hostility. Be mindful of this towards the peaceful inhabitants of France, show them that in our century two civilized peoples, even at war with each other, do not violate the commandments of humanity. Always remember how your parents at home would feel if an enemy, God forbid, invaded our provinces. Show the French that the German people also face the enemy in a civilized and noble manner.

Signed: Friedrich Karl, Prince of Prussia.

//On August 8, at 4 o'clock in the morning, the regiment assembled. The enemy army, defeated in a battle the day before yesterday, was to be blocked via Rohrbach. It was assumed that some of them would try to gain the Bitsch fortress. The Catholics received general absolution from the field chaplain. The officers burned with lust for battle and without exception everyone in the regiment longed for the opportunity to finally be able to measure themselves against the enemy.

//The march led through the towns of Weinbach and Breitfort. A lengthy rendez-vous took place near the village of Wedelsheim, after which His Royal Highness Prince Friedrich Karl rode past the regiment with his general staff in the uniform of the Ziethen Hussars. He replied vigorously to the Prince Fiihrer's good morning greeting. At 11 o'clock the peasants heard that the day before yesterday French reconnaissance troops, infantry and ca□

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vallerie been in the surrounding villages; the regiment was still 2 hours from the border. At half past one it approached French soil; it was stopped. At about 1 o'clock Kapellmeister Keiper played the Prussian song, and the regiment crossed the French border with hurrah at Eppingen, a poor village. The hearts were moved by very peculiar feelings, for everyone said to himself that many would probably never see the German soil they had just left again. But such sentiments do not last long among good soldiers; a proud feeling now moved everyone to stand on French soil; the same was only somewhat toned down by the poor picture of the first French villages. While in the first place the shops and doors of the houses were closed and the inhabitants seemed to have fled, in another village, which was later passed, the inhabitants were not so blinded, they sat or stood in front of the doors, but showed their anxious, astonished Faces that she believed the "Prussiens" not so close. The regiment had a tough march on bad dirt roads in hilly terrain, through ditches and streams. Quite exhausted, he arrived at Groß□Redersching in the afternoon at 3 p.m., where the entire 2nd Guards Infantry Division took up camp. The hope of catching the enemy had not been fulfilled.

//Most of the residents were present in Groß□Redersching, but they spoke German in a patois that was difficult to understand, thereby proving in every way how alienated they were from Germanness, being Germans by language and descent.

//Since the wagons with the provisions could not follow the regiment, requisition detachments were sent out to bring in the necessary provisions. There may well have been some hardships here, but the hungry stomach demanded food and drink; It was often difficult to make the peasants aware of the imperative necessity. There was a good deal of wailing from the angry peasants, who clung with iron tenacity to their hard-earned goods, and a good deal of wailing and wailing from the women. The general procedure was as gentle as possible, and their subordinates were treated with great severity

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the officers find it inconvenient to alleviate the hardship of the inhabitants to the best of their ability; but the necessary had to be done, the inevitable borne. The hard day was followed by a terrible night. Around 1 a.m. it started pouring down from the sky and rained continuously until 7 a.m. in the morning. People swam in the water that stood almost a foot deep in the furrows. The terrible rain had put out all the campfires and it was difficult to light new fires in the absence of dry wood. As such finally accomplished here and there, freezing on one side and burning on the other, officers and men lay around the flames, longingly awaiting the dawn. After 7 a.m. the sun broke through and warmed up the cold, wet limbs again. At 8 o'clock the Catholics had, at 9 o'clock the Evangelical field service.

//A peculiar picture was presented by the teams gathered in a wide circle around the clergyman on a mountain slope, shivering in their cloaks and listening to the Word of God. After the decoction the music played, the teams received wine and since the sky showed a cheerful face, the mood was also cheerful. In the afternoon, His Royal Highness Prince August von Württemberg visited the bivouac with the Chief of Staff of the Guard Corps, Major General von Dannenberg. His Highness Prince Nikolaus von Nassau also visited the regiment and brought words of encouragement to his Nassau compatriots with his greetings. Towards evening the grenadiers dragged young trunks and foliage from the nearby woods and soon there were hundreds of huts for 5 to 10 men, each more practical and solid than the next, but all of a type that the reservists remembered from the Bohemian campaign .

//During the day you could hear the thunder of cannons, which came from the bombardment of the Bitsch fortress.

//On the 10th at 5 o'clock in the morning we marched off. After a five-hour march via Singling□Weidesheim, the regiment bivouacked near the town of Saarlbe, 1½ miles south of Saargemünd. The night of August 10th/11th was dreadful! Lightning and thunder, storm and rain! The storm swept the debris of the built shelters around in the fields[.]

//Around 6 o'clock the rain continued and they got into swamps

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abandoned transformed bivouacs; the regiment waded up to the waist in the swollen Saar, passed Saarlbe and, after a not too stray march, came to Uebergingen, which was already occupied by artillery. Emergency quarters were also occupied the next day in Racrange. The German-speaking area had ended with the last places passed. After a march on the 13th, a bivouac was set up near La Neuville.

//On the 14th, the 2nd and Fusilier battalions were quartered in the village of St. Genieve, located on a steep mountain, while the 1st battalion moved into an outpost bivouac down in the Moselle valley. The thunder of cannons was heard from the other bank of the Moselle. In the distance one could see the dark outline of an advanced fort of the fortress of Metz.

//On the 15th at 5 o'clock in the morning they left. The march went down difficult paths into the Moselle valley. After a few hours, the Moselle was crossed near Dieulouard on a still unfinished solid bridge that still lacked the railing.

//The direction of march took the regiment away from Metz again. At Villers en haic, a bivouac was purchased. The lack of provisions was happily compensated for by the distribution of cognac, coffee, cigars and tobacco from Her Majesty the Queen. If the French celebrated their Napoleon Day today, the Queen's regiment had another opportunity to see the care of their high boss and to commemorate their Queen Augusta with quiet gratitude.

//On the 16th march on. At Broussay and Rambocourt the regiment came into bivouack. The necessary water first had to be fetched from a great distance, since the water taken from a pond near the camp site was undrinkable. A battery stationed next to the regiment would not permit the removal of potatoes from the arable land it occupied. This caused a quarrel between the artillerymen and the regiment's men, which finally degenerated into open fighting. Only the energetic intervention of Major Prince Salm and Captain Count Keller of the Fusilier Battalion ended it, after several Fusiliers had already been wounded. Through the effective support that the "potato battery" brought to the grenadiers in a difficult hour two days later, they reconciled them again.

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//At 3 a.m. the alarm signals blared out into the warm summer night. The regiment was quickly ready to march, and the twilight found it already on the marked path.

//As far as one could see, countless fires were blazing and marching columns appeared everywhere. It became known that, as a result of yesterday's battle (Mars la Tour), the Guards would be brought up by a march to the right against the enemy stationed near Metz. The division was concentrated at Bouconville. The march, which soon degenerated into a quick march, went north via Richecourt and Lahayville. Around 10 o'clock in the morning the regiment encountered the first wounded on several wagons; French prisoners, including General Montaigne, were also brought past, escorted by troops from Westphalian regiments. It was about 11 o'clock when, during a short stop on the side of the road, the knapsacks were put down, the tin cans in them were packed into the bread bags, the cooking utensils were strapped to the coats, and then we continued without stopping. Around noon

big rendez-vous at Xaunnes. One ate what little was in the bread bag. Troops from the Garde du Corps regiment brought in a French patrol to General von Berger, who was halted on a hillside. At 2 o'clock the march was continued, it was a terribly strenuous march, many could only keep up the fast pace with difficulty, but nobody wanted to be left behind, everyone did their best in fulfilling the duty of the day and used their utmost strength to carry it out to come along, and there were only a few in the regiment who, despite all the exertion of strength, could not cope with the overexertion and fell down exhausted on the way. The officers were worthy examples of willpower and proud perseverance. It was difficult for the old men in the ranks of the regiment, the fighters from Düppel and Königgrätz, but also for the young enlisted men, but none surrendered unless exhaustion had knocked them down, and there were only a few of them. Advantageur von Hardenberg had been unable to march through a hole in his foot—today there was no obstacle to him marching—he had managed to get himself a pair of rubber shoes, all pain was forgotten, he marched undeterred. And so many more like him.

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//At 5 o'clock in the afternoon the regiment arrived in a meadow just south of the village of Suczemont on the Metz-Pariser road in Bivuak. The whole corps bivouacked between Suczemont and Latour en Woewre.

//August 17th is to be counted among the most strenuous days of the campaign. A march of almost 5 miles had been covered in great heat and scant food. The longer pauses had offered little respite, since only lying down by the guns was permitted to maintain readiness for action.

//The baggage could not follow the regiment. Because of the lack of food, there could have been no talk of boiling. But fatigue and hunger gave way to the anticipation of battle.

//The order issued in the evening read: "The Corps of Guards will take part in the battle expected tomorrow."

//With these thoughts, officers and soldiers laid themselves down on the hard earth. Shivering, everything pressed close together. Dense fog settled more and more on the meadows and fields. It was a cold night, preceding the coming hot day.

St Privat la Montagne.

//The day of St. Privat, the brightest star in the crown of glory of the Queen Augusta regiment, began as early as 5 o'clock as a bright, hot summer's day. Half past five they left the bivouac and marched in a northerly direction towards Mars la Tour. A halt was made to the east of the village, and here, covered by a rise to the east, the whole infantry of the Corps of Guards assembled in dense rendezvous positions.



Here the Saxons passed, marching towards Jarny. The aides-de-camp hunted across country to make reports and receive orders. Guns were loaded, flags unfurled.

// Pastor Heinen gave the Catholics after a short speech

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and prayer the general absolution, the division preacher gave his spiritual encouragement to the evangelicals. The generals rode from troop to troop, cheering them on with vigorous speeches, and if there was anything else needed to inflame courage and pugnacity to the highest degree, it was the knowledge of fighting under the eyes of the Supreme Warlord. Officers, non-commissioned officers and enlisted men visited comrades and friends in the companies, exchanging last-minute assignments; moving, they clasped hands.

//In the meantime General von Pape had already sent the Guards Hussars forward. During some silence, a rumor spread that the enemy was retreating and not accepting the battle. — The sun was already high in the sky and sent down its scorching rays. His Royal Highness Prince Friedrich Karl rode past the regiment and promised Colonel Count Waldersee a “brilliant day”. As far as the eye could see everything was covered with troops, on the left the vanguard of the Saxons, on the right IX. and X Corps, infantry, cavalry, artillery, ammunition columns, the field hospitals with their light spring wagons, which, despite their calming effect, still create a serious mood. Heavy cannon thunder to the regiment's right. The IX Corps under General von Manstein had noticed a French camp near the village of Amanvillers and immediately attacked it with artillery. As in the old heroic song the sound of the battle shield struck by the prince of the army, so the cannon thunder served as a reminder to the field battle. The march hurried. On Tuesday's battlefield, peasants were still busy burying the dead under the supervision of field gendarmes, fresh mounds could be seen everywhere; French corpses, bloated horse carcasses, bullets, weapons and pieces of uniform covered the fields. Enormous clouds of dust, caused by the many troops advancing at a rapid pace, lay over the whole area. The canteens were mostly empty, the thirst was terribly plaguing. Commandos which had been sent to St. Marcell and Doncourt to fetch water returned to the regiment without having achieved anything. Both places had been found densely occupied with wounded; since the water, as everywhere on this plateau, was scarce, in favor of the wounded comrade-

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physically have to do without the refreshment that is so necessary.

//The regiment formed the vanguard of the division. A solemn seriousness had taken hold of everyone, but everyone felt proud and exalted in the knowledge that they had the opportunity to risk their lives for king and fatherland, and everyone in the regiment was happy to finally be able to come face-to-face with the enemy.

//In front of St. Marcel the regiment formed up for action as it advanced, the 1st Battalion on the right wing, the Fusilier Battalion on the left wing. Progress was made towards Habonville. Already the rifle fire and the rolling of the mitrailleuses could be clearly heard above the cannon thunder, while numerous little white clouds in the blue of the sky indicated the enemy shells. A longer halt was made at a height between Habonville and Batilly, to the left of the Bois de la Cusse. The hilltop afforded an overview of the battlefield. One could see how the French lines were getting longer and longer; one saw the long streaks which fell behind our advancing troops: dead and wounded.

//His Royal Highness Prince Friedrich Karl, who rushed past the regiment with his staff, shouted to the men that they should fight like good grenadiers today and show themselves worthy of the high honor of having the Queen as their commander.

//The sun beat down terribly. In order to quench their burning thirst to some extent, people put leaves, grass and the like in their mouths.

//Since 3 o'clock our corps' artillery, which had been driven north-east of Habonville, was shelling the fixed positions of St. Privat la Montagne and St. Marie aux Chenes. St. Privat, whose sun-drenched walls shone far across the country, is situated very high in a completely treeless region, and the terrain falls away from it like a glacis towards St. Ail. The village is solidly built, the gardens and some of the fields are surrounded by stone walls.

// The naturally strong position of St. Privat, for which the villages of St. Marie, St. Ail, and Habonville formed only the advanced defence, was greatly strengthened by trenches, redoubts, and trenches.

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// The French artillery as well as the strong infantry, which was in cover and equipped with a rifle that could fire up to 12 rounds per minute and plenty of ammunition, held the terrain up to the edge of the valley under a terrible fire.

//To cover the artillery, the 1st Battalion was sent to St. Ail at about 3 o'clock. St. Marie aux Chenes was snatched from the enemy at the same time by the Garde-Fusilier Regiment, the Garde-Jäger-Bataillon and the advanced guard of the Saxons .

At the head of his Garde-Fusiliers, Colonel v. Erckert here the hero's death, a bullet had pierced his head.

//Now General von Berger ordered the 4th brigade, regiments of Emperor Franz and Queen Augusta to attack St. Privat la Montagne. Shells, which flew over the heads of the regiment, were greeted with hurrah. One of the first shells hit the 2nd Battalion's medicine cart. The guns roared terribly, the mitrailleuses rattled and the volleys cracked. The tones produced by the striking of the Chassepot bullets on the bayonets were peculiar. The howling of bursting shells, the blaring of horns, the merry music of the regiments attacking, all this drowned out the moaning and death sighs of the fallen. The losses in the regiment increased after a few minutes. Various teams from the music corps also fell, some badly hit, some lighter. Then Kapellmeister Keiper, whose sword had been shattered by a bullet, led his musicians, whose playing only faded away in the increasing noise of battle and because they lacked the weapons for effective combat, to active love on a field covered with dead and wounded. The regiment, which passed to the left north of St. Ail, recaptured the 1st Battalion, whose commander, Major von Rosenberg, could no longer bear it when he saw his comrades advancing against the enemy. From Habonville, Major Seckt brought up 2 grenadier companies from the Kaiser Alexander regiment, and 2 companies from the Kaiser Franz regiment also joined the attack. Colonel Graf von Waldersee led the center, further to the right, Hauptmann von Falkenstein advanced with 2 grenadier companies. Demi-battalions were formed. It went forward with incredible calm.

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Several meadow fences made of strong planks and thick wires, which withstood every butt-blow, had to be crossed under the most intense fire, the rapid fire of the enemy guns grew stronger and stronger, rain of fire streamed from the covered positions of the French infantry, everywhere it twitched, flamed and rattled, even they The ground seemed to breathe fire. The din drowned out every word of command. While death was raging in the ranks, one could hardly see anything of the enemy, only in the far distance the long thin gray lines of the entrenchments, partly veiled by thick gunpowder smoke and close by behind hedges, ditches and fences now and then a head. Still saving ammunition, the demi-battalions pushed forward defenselessly. The losses became more and more significant, a wide road of dead and wounded lagged behind the troops. Then came the order to swarm out. He came at the right time, but few would have escaped if the troops had continued in a closed troop. About 100 steps were always covered at a run, then on the command "down" the teams threw themselves on the ground and gave rapid fire and then repeated the same maneuver. Unfortunately, most of the officers remained standing at full length, presenting the enemy with a welcome target. All the staff officers and captains had stayed on horseback to better direct the battle

and to set an example of death-defying loyalty to their soldiers. Almost all of them had their horses shot under the body. The casualties grew steadily, the enemy literally poured lead shells over the whole area. They were still more than 1,000 paces ahead when a concentric attack was ordered in the direction of the narrow dirt road leading from St. Privat to Habonville, behind whose hedges bordering it French skirmishers were particularly troublesome.

//In the next moment, with beating drums and loud hurrah, the companies threw themselves onto the mountain top in a rush. They arrived breathless. You could see the red trousers clearly in front of you; lying and kneeling, a single fire, which soon turned into rapid fire, was fired at the enemy infantry, some of whom were retreating and some of whom offered resistance. The rattling and hissing of the small-arms fire reached an unheard-of level;